

Gibson &



Personal & Confidential

January 30, 1981.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,
President,
Rockefeller University,
1230 York Avenue,
NEW YORK, N.Y.
10021.

Dear Josh,

Thank you for the very excellent reception and program in New York earlier this week. It was a great experience to hear at first hand, four distinguished scientists telling of their work. As you suggested, this could be multiplied many times over.

One or two very minor matters you might like to know about. The microphone on the podium, that is the fixed one, was not very satisfactory. Only when the neck-microphone was worn did the audience hear adequately. Some of the speakers unfortunately, tended to drop their voice at the end of sentences and we were left wondering what the verb or the object was in each sentence.

There was also a slight tendency, as you can imagine, to use words not easily understood by laymen. These were passed over so swiftly that I am sure the point that was being made was completely lost. No one in that audience would, I am sure, object to one word or two of explanation for technical terms as they are used.

I thought that the arrangements you made were excellent and the lunch delightful.

I am now thinking about what the function can be of this group of one hundred people. As you will realize, it is quite difficult to go out to raise money for "the Rockefeller University" as such. It should be, however, relatively easy to go out to raise named research fellowships for use at the Rockefeller University. When one finds a centre of excellence of this dimension one thinks of the natural prestige that arises from association with it. I am thinking of the named chairs and to some degree, buildings, at the Weizmann Institute at Rehovot. On their limited campus they must have all the buildings that they can manage, but I am sure that their operating budget is now their problem. Luckily, there and at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, named chairs are now

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg, (cont'd.)

being given. I suppose that this is the one thing that we should think of concentrating on for a few years at your university.

In dealing with people here who want to help medical research along, I simply ask them whether they wish to endow a chair now or, pay annually what would be the interest on such an endowment, say \$50,000 a year for ease of arithmetic. Some are able to do that but do not want to surrender their capital, say \$500,000. They can be encouraged to leave it in their wills, of course, but it is the present that requires the sustaining funds on an annual basis.

I shall be in touch with the head of our audio-visual system at the University of British Columbia today, Mr. Victor Doray, I hope. He has been away ill but I want to get a set of the thirteen programs of 30 minutes each which we did in color some years ago for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. It was made on a peanut budget I can tell you, both here and in Europe. I was very disappointed however in the final selection of the footage and much good material was thrown out before I caught up with the people doing the technical work. The series therefore tends to drag and a great deal of illustrative material which we have in the Woodward Library and could have used was never entered on the films. Therefore the thirteen programs could be boiled down to about six I would think for use here and it may be that even a smaller amount would be useful to your people. Since I hold the copyright you are welcome to do anything you like with this series of television programs. Some of the photography will be hard to duplicate, such as that at the home of Pasteur and perhaps that at Oxford and in Padua.

I shall keep in touch with you about these matters and when next in New York hope to have a few minutes when we can chat about the future of your excellent institution.

With warmest regards and best wishes for return to health,

Yours sincerely,

William C. Gibson, M.D., F.R.C.P.
Chairman